



Cornell University
ILR School

Cornell University ILR School
DigitalCommons@ILR

Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

10-14-1927

Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 41)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/justice>

Thank you for downloading an article from DigitalCommons@ILR.

Support this valuable resource today!

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) at DigitalCommons@ILR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Justice by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@ILR. For more information, please contact catherwood-dig@cornell.edu.

If you have a disability and are having trouble accessing information on this website or need materials in an alternate format, contact web-accessibility@cornell.edu for assistance.

Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 41)

Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteous-
ness I hold fast,
and will not let
it go."
—Job 27:6

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

"Workers
of the world
united! You
have nothing to
lose but your
chains."

Vol. IX. No. 41.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1927

PRICE 3 CENTS

Joint Board Issues Wage Calculation Booklet

Will Be Ready Next Week—Free to
All Members

The New York Joint Board has published a "Wage Calculation" booklet of 72 pages, which will be ready for distribution to all members on Tuesday, October 18, in the dues' office of the Joint Board, 130 East 25th Street, main floor.

The book is of convenient pocket size, and will be given to all members free of charge. The booklet contains wage calculations giving the exact hourly rate on the basis of 44, 38, 33½, 40 and 32 hours per week. It will help the worker to find at a glance the exact amount of wages he is entitled to for the actual hours he has worked.

Besides the wage calculations this booklet contains also other valuable information, such as: A weekly record of earnings; a directory of all union offices and branches; a directory of all union institutions; a set of standing union rules; memorandum sheets for personal use. The supply is limited, and members are requested to apply for booklets at once.

Union's Leaders All Agree Petty Shop Must Go

Conference of Managers, Business Agents, Local Executive
Other Active Workers Agree With President Sigman Sm.
Cloak and Dress Shop Always Has Been Union's Chief Ob-
stacle and Worry.

A conference meeting of all executives, local officers, business agents and Joint Board officials, called by President Sigman to discuss with him ways and measures to ameliorate work conditions in the cloak and dress trades in New York City, agreed, without a dissenting voice, that the chief evil in the cloak industry at this day is the petty contractor shop, where most of the product of the two big industries is manufactured. The meeting was held on Monday afternoon, October 10, at the Council Room of the I. L. G. W. U. Building.

In a short introductory talk, President Sigman pointed out to the officers and active members present at the conference that, while an organization campaign is a necessity from time to time, it can't hope to abolish the fundamental shortcomings of the trade. Of these the most outstanding,

at this moment, is the small shop. The Union which is now beginning to approach industrial problems from a constructive viewpoint, must, therefore, turn its attention to the question of the small shop, or rather find ways and means how to bring back the bigger unit into the industry.

President Sigman cited an example from the Chicago cloak market, which, he said, is divided into two distinct groups—the large and the small shops. The small shops require a greater number of business agents and a great deal more of effort all around than the big shops, while union conditions are far better observed in the larger shop than in the small

(Continued on Page 2)

Workers'
between Night
on October 29
en's Council Starts Series of
Winter Activities

The Women's Organization Council, (W. O. C.) of the Dressmakers' Unions, Locals 22 and 89, has set itself a new task. At its meeting last week, the W. O. C. decided that in addition to its daily work of organizing open shops in the dress industry, it would embark on a regular program of recreational activities. These activities are designed to maintain the friendly get-together spirit aroused by the successful excursions and hikes undertaken by the Women's Council last summer. A recreation committee was appointed of the following members: Marie Bonano, Mamie Ippolito and Mildred Neglia of Local 89, Minnie Rubinstein (formerly of Philadelphia Local 50 Recreational Circle) and Cecilia Schwanenfeld of Local 22, to devise plans and a program of activities.

At the meeting of the Council this
(Continued on Page 2)

International and All Locals Endorse Campaign of Judge Panken

President Sigman Appeals to All Members Residing in Judicial
District to Register and Vote for Working Class Jurist

The re-election of Judge Jacob Panken, Socialist, for Municipal Court Judge, was unanimously endorsed this week by the General Executive Board of the International upon a motion by President Morris Sigman. Members of the union, residing in the district where Judge Panken is running, were urged in an appeal to vote for Judge Panken because of "his extraordinary record of service in which human rights were placed above property rights, wherever possible."

The resolution of President Sigman, adopted by the Board, is expected to have great influence upon garment workers when they go to the ballot box. The record of Judge Panken as "A Socialist and trade unionist" was extolled in the appeal made by the International to its members, which reads:

"It is with great satisfaction that the General Executive Board of our International Union endorses the candidacy of Judge Jacob Panken for re-election as Municipal Court Judge. Judge Panken's record of ten years service in 'the poor man's court' has been extraordinary and been marked by the placing of human rights above property rights, wherever possible. His record as a Socialist and as a trades unionist, for he has helped build some of the most powerful unions springing from the East Side, is well known to all of you. But we want to stress equally that Judge Panken has received the endorsement of the bench and bar for his devotion to duty and for his notable impartiality in administering the law. All liberal, progressive and decent elements who are interested in keeping the bench

clear of evil influences and interested in the administration of justice that does not work undue hardship upon the laboring elements because laws were not originally designed for their protection are united in support of this sterling man.

"Because it is uncommon for our
(Continued on Page 2)

I. L. G. W. U. Locals Instructed to Arrange Referendum Discussions

Symposium on Proportional Representation this Saturday in
I. L. G. W. U. Auditorium

The referendum on Proportional Representation will be held all over the country by all locals of the I. L. G. W. U. between October 15th and November 15th, as decided by the last meeting of the G. E. B. in Boston.

In order to obtain as wide an exchange of views on this subject as possible, the Referendum Committee of the G. E. B. has forwarded this week a second letter to all Executive Boards to arrange discussion meetings at once and to inform the committee concerning same, so that the committee may send a representative to answer questions, and to clear up points that may seem complicated.

The local executives were instructed further by Vice-President Harry Greenberg who is secretary of the Referendum Committee, that the balloting is to be taken at a special meeting of the local, after a thorough discussion has taken place. The vote is not to be postponed, but is to be taken right then and there. The count-

The second hearing on the libel charges brought by President Morris Sigman against the editors and publishers of two Communist sheets—Die Freiheit and Die Einigkeit—took place last Tuesday afternoon, October 11, in Magistrate Brodsky's Court, in 57th Street, Manhattan. Like the first hearing before the same judge last week, this second examination proved

conclusively that the Communist lawyers, intend less than anything else to prove the slanderous stories printed in the Communist publications about President Sigman and his wife, but that they rely mostly on "nerve" and browbeating to pull their clients out of a bad hole.

That such are their tactics is evident in the fact that, throughout this hearing, the lawyers for the Communist editors, not once put in any testimony to prove that Sigman or Mrs. Sigman own an "estate" that is worth "\$150,000," as they alleged in their sheets, or that they had conducted a gambling, immoral, or bootlegging establishment in the small lake casino in Storm Lake, Ia., as they openly insinuated. Instead, they continually bombarded President Sigman with irrelevant questions concerning last year's cloak strike so miserably lost by their clients, after keeping the workers 25 weeks out of the shops, and after having spent over three million dollars

(Continued on Page 2)

Pres. Sigman Sends Special Report To A. F. of L. Meet in Los Angeles

Reviews Events of Last Year and Sketches Prospects for Future
—Thanks Convention for Aid Given

Last week, as reported in "Justice", Isidore Nagler, representing the I. L. G. W. U. at the 47th convention of the American Federation of Labor in Los Angeles, presented two resolutions offering an expression of gratitude on behalf of the members of Ladies' Garment Workers' organization for the assistance extended by the American Labor movement during the heroic

struggle waged by them last year to liberate their union from the grasp of the Communist demagogues.

A few days later, President Morris Sigman, acting on behalf of the G. E. B., forwarded to President Green a lengthy statement, covering a summary of the I. L. G. W. U. chief events in the past year and also an outline
(Continued on page 2)

Pres. Sigman Sends Special Report To A. F. of L. Meet

(Continued from Page 1)

of the union's recuperative activity at present and for the near future. The report reads as follows:

President William Green,

Members of the Executive Council, and Delegates,
47th Annual Convention, A. F. of L.,
Alexandria Hotel,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Greetings:

It is with considerable regret that pressure of affairs in connection with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union prevents me from attending the Forty-Seventh Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor and from personally greeting the friends of our great organization who are gathered there now.

This convention is a particularly appropriate occasion for our International Union to express its gratitude and appreciation for the prompt and generous support of President Green, the Executive Council and other officials given our International Union in an hour when it was beset by an insidious and poisonous enemy hiding itself under the mask of idealism and humanity.

Thanks in a large measure to the effective aid of the leaders and officers of the American Federation of Labor, some of whom were on the ground until the last vestige of destruction was eliminated, the International Union has been able to rid itself of its Communist plague and is rapidly emerging into the dawn of a constructive American trade union life and activity.

Several years ago, the Red Trade Union International, operating from Moscow in consonance with its program of capturing existing trade union organizations the world over, settled upon the needle trades of the United States as fertile soil for their so-called "revolutionary program". Their slogans, as are well known to you, were to make the existing trade unions pliant tools of the Communist Party in this country, or to destroy them entirely if they could not be captured. In line with this program, it was part of the Communist Party propaganda campaign to malign trade union leadership and the principles and policies of the trade union movement and to thwart all attempts to improve the economic and spiritual conditions of the workers as "corrupt petty bourgeois and imperialistic prejudices."

An industry such as ours, beset by the curse of seasonal employment, alternating with periods of "slack", offered them an opportunity to stir up discontent and turmoil over existing trade union leadership and practices among those workers who could not see that the evils were inherent in the nature of the industry. No doubt, there is such a thing as healthy discontent in a trades union organization, a discontent which seeks constantly to improve the standards under which unionists must labor. The Communists, naturally, were not interested in advancing the trade union cause or the needs of the workers, but to seize control of our unions for their political purposes.

By creating false issues of "democracy", "proportional representation", "amalgamation", etc., in which they did not believe, and by making wild and most extravagant promises for the improvement of the conditions for the workers, they succeeded in misleading a sufficient number of our members in the New York unions and obtained a strong foothold in the board and some of the local

unions affiliated with it, later swaying the majority of the delegates to the New York Joint Board. For a short while they continued in power in the New York Joint Board on the strength of the impossible and exaggerated issues which they created, but it required the test of a strike to show them up in their complete dishonesty of purpose and woeful inability for any constructive trade union work, and of any sincere purpose in protecting the elementary interests of the workers.

Your delegates are well acquainted with the Communist adventure, culminating with the disastrous loss of the cloakmakers' general strike of 1926, a strike which was called contrary to the advice of the General Executive Board of the International. The cloak industry was only restored to a peace basis after the Communists were eliminated for plunging 35,000 cloakmakers into a chaotic, mismanaged strike of twenty-six weeks with political rather than economic purposes in view, which finally outraged the rank and file of our unions who turned the Communists out of power completely.

At this time, we are glad to apprise the delegates at this convention with the fact that the Communist Party controlled officials are completely outside our union. They are discredited and have no following. All trade agreements are between the manufacturers' associations and the International and its Joint Board. All union buildings, save one, are under our control.

They, of course, left us a heritage of ruin, which we are rapidly repairing. They left us a host of non-union shops that suddenly began to flourish in a practically 100 per cent union industry. They left us debased standards in many union shops. They destroyed our unemployment insurance fund and sabotaged our Proslavis Label. But through an intensive organization campaign, we have uprooted most of the scab shops, reestablished our right and ability to defend labor standards and to proceed with the work of reconstruction.

How completely helpless the Communists have been rendered is seen from recent events. Though ordered by the recent convention of the Workers' (Communist) Party to renew their offensive against the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the American Federation of Labor, they are able to muster only a few thousand recruits to a meeting ostensibly of cloakmakers, but actually gathered from various trades from New Jersey, Connecticut, etc., and from camp followers of the Communist Party. The Communist latest offensive, as announced in their own press, has degenerated into a dollar-raising scheme, which actually has for its purpose to keep these discredited and ousted leaders in funds and to pay for the hire of guerrillas and thugs to harass a few of our loyal members on the way to and from work. But even this pandering is meeting with no response and is doomed to total failure.

The complete collapse of the Communist adventure can get no greater confirmation than from their own leaders. In a report to the Communist Party convention, Jay Lovestone, head of the party, speaks of the costly mistakes made by the Communists which resulted in their downfall.

We want to take this occasion to assure the assembled delegates that the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has succeeded in restoring its locals, in New York and every other market, which were affected by the Communist disease, to

Fables of Sigman 'Wealth' Bared in Court

(Continued from Page 1)

of the union's funds and squandered thirty million dollars in workers' wages.

President Sigman supplied the court with a copy of a deed to his farm place in Storm Lake, which proves beyond cavil the market value of the small amusement casino which he owns. Sigman also gave the court copies of a deed transferring to him the half interest formerly held in the place by his two brothers, for the sum of three thousand dollars, which may serve as an adequate gauge to the value of the whole property.

When cross-examined by Louis Boudin, of counsel for the defendants, President Sigman showed that the

total assessment of the property is only \$13,000, in which he had only a \$6,000 equity, and that improvement on the premises since he purchased the place in 1921 has not totalled more than \$1,800. When Mr. Brodsky, another attorney for the Communists, sought to draw the inference that Sigman had steam launches and other expensive equipment at his place, it was revealed during the examination, that there were actually a dozen row boats on the premises.

Many times Magistrate Brodsky was forced to overrule questions by defense counsel as irrelevant to the issue. The hearing will be continued next Monday morning at 11 o'clock before Brodsky, in the Tombs Court.

HALLOWEEN PARTY ON OCTOBER 29

(Continued from Page 1)

week, the Recreational Committee brought in suggestions for a Halloween Festival to be given in the Auditorium of the International Building on Saturday evening, October 29, 1927. The charge for this entertainment, which included music, dancing and refreshments is fifty cents.

The Council approved this suggestion, as well as the program for winter activities which may include the formation of a swimming group and theatre parties. At the request of the Committee two new members were added: Grace Delouise of Local 89 and Ida Rubin of Local 22. The Committee was given power to enlarge its number and to recruit new members for a permanent Recreational Group from the two locals. Further announcements of the Festival will be made in next week's Justice. Tickets for the festival can be obtained from the Secretary of the council, Marie Bonano, at the Joint Board Office and from members of the Council.

PETTY SHOPS MUST GO!

(Continued from Page 1)

units notwithstanding this extra vigil. The officials of the organization followed President Sigman, each expressing their view of this grave problem, from the light of personal experience and observation. All of them, nevertheless, agreed on one thing: If the Union is to make headway and the industry is not to suffer further demoralization, the former must, without delay, proceed to negotiate with the responsible heads in the trade on this subject. Some expressed the opinion that the workers' organization should be even ready to make some concessions to the employers, if absolutely necessary, in order to insure the formation of big inside and outside shops.

Others declared that it would be necessary to begin, simultaneously with peaceful conferences with the employers, a powerful drive against the small shop owners.

sound American trade union principles and practices and it has every confidence of resuming its former position of power and prestige. In this successful struggle against that pernicious force, which sought to subordinate the interests of thousands of workers and their families to an outside political clique taking dictation from Moscow, the American Federation of Labor has played a great role which will never be forgotten by the appreciative rank and file and officials of our International. We trust that the American Federation of Labor will continue its aid as in the past.

With fraternal greetings and with every wish for success in your deliberations,

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Morris Sigman, President

JUDGE JACOB PANKEN ENDORSED BY I.L.G.W.U.

(Continued from Page 1)

great organization to endorse a political candidate, we are especially gratified that we can do so in the present instance. Judge Panken represents to the worker the ideal law-giver because he combines within himself the passion of a great ideal and a noble humanitarian tradition, an acute and sympathetic knowledge of economic conditions which bring men and women before him and a love for his fellow men which must always temper abstract justice.

"Here is the opportunity of our members, who reside in his district, to honor Judge Panken by honoring themselves. They have never been presented with a more effective opportunity than at the forthcoming elections to return to office a man who has never been alien to the aspirations and struggles of the labor movement. We seriously urge these members to help re-elect Judge Panken. All other members are urged to help financially and throw themselves into the campaign."

REFERENDUM DEBATE THIS SATURDAY

(Continued from Page 1)

portional representation will take place in New York City next Saturday, October 15, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, in the auditorium of the International Building, 3 West 16th Street. Representatives from all local known exponents of various viewpoints and opinions with regard to proportional representation have been invited to take part in this symposium. Among those who will be present are President Sigman, Vice-Presidents Nino, Dubinsky and Greenberg, and Brothers B. Kaplan, N. Kirtzman, P. Kurinsky, and M. J. Ashbes.

All active members are invited to come and take part in the discussion.

HARLEM BANK OF COMMERCE

2118-2nd AVENUE, NEW YORK
Tel. Lehigh 2800-1-2-3

Branch: 431-3rd AVE., N. Y.
Tel. Lexington 8055

The Workmen's Bank for Workmen

All Banking Operations

4 1/2 %

Money Orders, Letters of Credit, Drafts, Steamship Agency, Notary Public, Safe Deposits.

AFFILIATED WITH

ATLANTIC STATE BANK

594 ATLANTIC AVE., BROOKLYN

Branches:

182 GRAHAM AVE., BROOKLYN
108th ST., Cor. 1st AVE., New York

Chicago I.L.G.W.U. Locals Alive With Vigor and Activity

Fake Shop Strikes Staged by Deposed Commissars Blow Up—Panhandle "Demonstrations" a Miserable Show—Communist Strong-Arm "Boys" Beat Retreat

In an interesting report received from Chicago, an account is given of the feverish trade union activity that is pervading today the ranks of the Chicago cloakmakers and dressmakers, now freed from the yoke of the Communist commissars through the election held two months ago by the I. L. G. W. U. locals of that city.

The Communist party, the "Trade Union Educational League", and the other parasitic groups, which for nearly two years had festered the organization of the Chicago women's garment workers and sucked it dry of every drop of free will and initiative, are now for all time dispossessed from the offices of the I. L. G. W. U. organizations in that city. Again the union is alive; its meetings are again attended by crowds of members after work hours; dues is being paid to the organization, and the voice of the rank and file is being heard.

"To convince you of the remarkable change that has taken place among our workers, here in Chicago," the report goes on, "I should like to take you along with me to a meeting of the Chicago Joint Board, and to judge for yourself the metamorphosis which has occurred among these union men and women. Let me, in a few words, jot down a few things that is taking place in the meeting hall:

"A worker from a big shop has complained that work is not being properly divided there among all workers. A union official visited the shop and adjusted the grievance.

"In one shop the workers were tardy in paying up their dues. The matter was quickly settled after a visit by a union representative.

"The cutters' local complained that a non union cutter is employed in a certain well-known shop. It took a day to have that cutter replaced by a union member.

"A cloak operator had a grievance: He was not paid for Decoration Day, Fourth of July and for Labor Day (during the Communist regime). The employer was at once forced to pay up.

"Another shop where some workers refused to pay dues. The matter is quickly adjusted. Here and there, an operator or a finisher would like to take advantage of the turmoil created by the commissars and dodge their obligations, but these incidents are rapidly being closed. The same thing is true of the efforts of some employers not to pay for Labor Day; they are speedily being made to realize that a union contract must be lived up to.

"In the shop of Bla' Bros. a presser refused to come to the office of the Union, and the agent of the Joint Board informed the firm that this presser, who turned out to be a follower of the Communist clique, could not be employed any longer. The former Communist manager of the Joint Board thereupon paid a visit to the firm interceding on behalf of this non-union presser, but received no encouragement from Mr. Blair. So the Communists placed "pickets" in front of the shop. The "pickets", however, are only regarded as a joke by the workers. The same is true of the Kirshbaum shop, the Hyman Bros. shop, and wherever the ousted clique is making an attempt to interfere with the regular work of the Joint Board."

Four Cloak Shops Struck For Violating Contract Rules

Four Firms Called to Account for Refusing to Abide by Agreement—Klipstein Firm Among Offenders

The Joint Board authorized, late last week, a strike against the firms of Klipstein, Zaidenberg, Lipshansky Bros., and the Freystadt Co.

The strikes were called for flagrant violations of union rules. These shop owners, apparently, must have concluded that, like under the late Communist regime of the Joint Board, they could go on disregarding work standards unmolested. The management of the International Joint Board rudely shocked these notions and ordered the workers out. The firm of H. Zaidenberg is located at 124 West 37th Street; Lipshansky Bros. is at 253 West 35th Street, and the Klipstein shop is located at 1285 Broadway.

The Seidenberg firm has been violating its contract with the Union for some time past. Lately, it refused to divide the work equally between its workers, and while the inside workers were being starved, it would send plenty of cut goods outside. It also made an attempt to discharge some

pressers on the pretext that "it was about to give up business."

A similar situation has existed at the Lipshansky shop. The firm refused to pay for Labor Day, an agreement legal holiday, and also cut down the wages of some workers. The firm is a member of the American Association, but it refused to obey the order of its own body, and thereupon the strike was declared.

The Klipstein firm persistently has sent out work of outside shops, while its own inside workers lacked work. A short time ago this firm had caused a lot of trouble by insisting that it wanted to "reorganize" the shop, but was baffled in this effort. With the coming of "slack", the firm took on courage and began to persecute its workers. The result was a strike.

The Joint Board is confident that it will be able to teach these firms a lesson that it pays best to abide by a union agreement. The shops are fully picketed.

Plans for Drive in Dress Trade Approved by Joint Board

Active Workers of Locals 22 and 89 Anxious to Unionize Trade

As anticipated, the organizing activity in the New York cloak shops has slackened somewhat during the past two weeks, thanks, on the one hand, to the slump in a great many cleak factories, and to the intervening Jewish holidays, on the other.

This work, however, will be resumed again shortly, and will be reinforced by a concentrated drive on the non-union dress shops. The management of the Joint Board is realizing that the huge number of non-union shops in the dress industry is becoming a burdensome problem for the dressmakers' locals to handle singly and that the whole force of the organization must be placed back of the effort which Locals 22 and 89 are making at present. Hence, the decision of the Joint Board to concentrate forces in the near future on dress activity.

Shop after shop will be reached and tackled, and the preliminary work of listing and classifying all shops in the industry already has been completed. The active members of Locals 22 and 89 are unanimous in the opinion that the worst has already been passed. The locals' meetings are well attended, the members are paying their dues promptly, and the morale among the union workers is excellent.

The union dressmakers will not, therefore, be content to rest in the union shops as long as they know that at least a half of the trade is employed under non-union conditions. There is a fine opportunity at hand now to extend the union to the great unorganized field in the trade, and, from the temper of the active workers, as it was shown at last Friday's meeting of the Joint Board, this opportunity will now not be neglected.

P. Dembitzer Leaves for Propaganda Tour

Secretary of Agitation Department Will Visit Union Locals, Central Bodies, and Workmen Circle Branches in Chicago, St. Louis, Cleveland, Toledo, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Boston.

In conformity with a decision of the G. E. B. Brother P. Dembitzer, Manager of the Propaganda Bureau of the I. L. G. W. U., will leave late this week for a six weeks' tour covering a number of cities in the Middle West and the East. Brother Dembitzer will visit locals, central bodies, Workmen's Circle branches, and various other institutions to speak on the present situation in the women's garment workers' organizations in the most important centres of their industry. He

will also discuss with the members of the various locals the problems of the next I. L. G. W. U. convention.

Letters were sent to all locals that Brother Dembitzer will visit, requesting that arrangements for meetings be made in time. All labor organizations that are interested in this subject are asked to get in touch with the I. L. G. W. U. locals in the above mentioned cities to obtain the services of Brother Dembitzer at meetings or discussions.

Unity Reunion Dance in Opera House

Paul Whiteman Piccadilly Players Will Supply Music

Large groups of I. L. G. W. U. members and friends of Unity are planning to spend Saturday evening, December 10, at the Second Annual Unity Reunion Dance which will take place in the grand ballroom of the Manhattan Opera House, at 34th Street and Eighth Avenue. The hall, which can accommodate only a few thousand, may not be large enough for all those who will want to attend this affair. The hall, however, was selected not for its size but for its beauty. The evening will remind all friends of Unity of the happy days they have spent at Unity House. Naturally only those who obtain their tickets early will be able to attend this Reunion.

Since this affair has no other object but to offer friends of Unity an opportunity to meet again in comradely surroundings, tickets will cost only \$1.00, including wardrobe. They may already be obtained at the office of the Educational Department, 3 W. 16th Street, Chelsea 2148.

Reserve Saturday evening, December 10th, for the Unity Reunion.

THEATRE GUILD PLAYS AT REDUCED PRICES FOR OUR MEMBERS

We are glad of the response of our members to the Theatre Guild's offer whereby they can see the six plays to be produced this season for \$6.00, just \$1.00 for each play, instead of paying \$2.20 for the same seat at the regular rate.

The plays to be presented will be chosen from the following:

Porgy, by Dorothy and Dubose Heyward.
Genius and His Brother, by Sil Vera.
Faust, by Goethe.
The Doctor's Dilemma, by Shaw.
Volpone, by Stefan Zweig.
Much Ado About Nothing, by Wm. Shakespeare.
A Month in the Country, by Turgenyev.
The Camel Thru the Needle's Eye, by Francis Langer.

Subscription blanks can be obtained from our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Office: 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 2148

MORRIS SIGMAN, President

A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer

MAX D. DANISH, Editor

Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year.

Vol. IX, No. 41.

New York, Friday, October 14, 1927

Entered as Second Class matter, April 18, 1920, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 26, 1919.

Buy Union Stamped Shoes

We ask all members of organized labor to purchase shoes bearing our Union Stamp on the sole, inner-sole or lining of the shoe. We ask you not to buy any shoes unless you actually see this Union Stamp.

Boot & Shoe Workers' Union

Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor
246 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

COLLIS LOVELLY
General President

CHARLES L. BAINE
General Secretary-Treasurer



JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Office: 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 2148

MORRIS SIGMAN, President

A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer

MAX D. DANISH, Editor

Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year.

Vol. IX, No. 41.

Friday, October 14, 1937

Entered as Second Class matter, April 16, 1920, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1102, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 28, 1919.

EDITORIALS

THE SAME OLD WOLF

Last week, another lying handbill had been distributed in the cloak and dress district. We should, ordinarily, not have dignified the "event" by giving it notice in these columns. Except for one thing: While this scurrilous circular is anonymous—signed by a mythical "committee of fifty"—hopelessly illiterate, and as usually disguised as an "appeal for unity", bearing all the earmarks of authorship by the gang which has so unceremoniously been unhorsed from leadership by the cloakmakers and dressmakers, it betrays, nevertheless, a new line of attack on our Union.

It clearly shows that, with their backs to the wall and maddened by a spasm of revenge, this band is now making a desperate attempt to single out for destruction individual leaders of the Union by attacking them personally, besmirching their characters, and blackening their reputations in the eyes of the workers.

The main target of this campaign of vilification is, of course, President Sigman. It is in his direction that the discredited camaraderie is flinging most of its poisoned arrows. Naturally, we can understand their injured feelings. Morris Sigman may not be very proud of such enemies, but he has certainly earned their hatred honestly. The Communist camarilla and their allies among a certain type of has-beens in our Union—who cannot forgive President Sigman that he had hastened their exit for the good and welfare of the organization—have substantial reasons for hating him.

Morris Sigman has been a stumbling block in their way—from the first day they had laid the plot to convert the I.L.G.W.U. into a Moscow pocket borough in the United States—to the last hour when they were compelled by the outraged masses of our members to bid good-bye to the permanent snug nests which they had built for themselves in our organization during their comparatively brief incumbency in office. It was President Sigman, and his immediate associates, who had thwarted every effort of a Communist comeback, under one or another camouflage; who had exposed all their "peace" schemes and all their "impartial" manoeuvres, and who had finally forced them to shed their mask and to come out in the open as an unvarnished scab agency acting brazenly and flagrantly in common partnership with scab bosses.

This personal attack on President Sigman, of course, has started not last week. The Communists and their allies—the "peacemakers" and the disgruntled old jobholders—have begun the mud-slinging drive on Sigman and even on members of his family a-half a year ago, at about the time they concluded that their game is up and that their chances of regaining the lost quarry, the cloak and dressmakers' union, are nil. Our members surely are familiar with the orgy of villainous lying, slander and libel that the Communist press, and President Sigman's enemies in the Jewish bourgeois press, have indulged in during all last summer, a scandalous debauch which finally forced President Sigman to bring his traducers to court to prove their calumny or else pay the penalty of libel.

This last squeal from the fast retreating troupe of ex-officials and petty Communist dictators reveals that they are not any longer concerned with differences of policy, tactics, or methods, as some of them have until now, at least, pretended for their clique. It is no more a question of principles, thank heaven, all pretense and masquerading is put aside—it is now only a question of "Sigman and his associate leaders". Let Sigman and his co-leaders go and everything will be "peace and harmony" in this badly disturbed world of ours. Sigman's departure and the coming in of a "new leader" will serve as a signal for the "reestablishment of respect and decent work conditions in the shops."

Frankly, we had expected that the campaign of the Communists and their nondescript allies of various hues and colors would in the end degenerate into a character-killing orgy. We know this band and its ways too well to have anticipated anything else. How the cloakmakers and dressmakers have received this "brand-new" style of slander, and what effect it has had in the shop district in general, may be judged from the fact that on the very next day following its appearance, the Communist press hastily disavowed responsibility for this anonymous handbill, while all their followers, official and unofficial, began falling over one another in reassuring all and sundry that they had nothing to do with its appearance and distribution.

We don't have to defend President Sigman before the members of the cloak and dress organizations of New York. We don't have to emphasize his role in the history of the Interna-

tional Union, from its earliest days to this day. His record is an open book, and we presume that he would be willing quite readily to rest upon this record, as a man and as a leader, before the court of public opinion and the opinion that he values most—of his fellow members of our International Union.

We mentioned this incident, as we stated above, only to point out once again the depth of depravity which the enemies of our International Union have reached in their slimy assaults. We are quite certain, however, that where gangsterism, open scabbing, graft and terror have failed, personal abuse and character assassination will fail just as miserably.

JUDGE PANKEN MUST BE REELECTED

The General Executive Board of the International has endorsed the candidacy of Municipal Justice Jacob Panken for reelection on the ticket of the Socialist Party and has pledged financial and moral support to his campaign.

This endorsement is equivalent to an appeal to all the members of the I. L. G. W. U. in the Second Municipal District—the lower East Side of New York—to get into the fight and to make his reelection certain.

Jacob Panken needs no introduction to the cloakmakers and dressmakers of New York. To them Justice Panken has been not only a fair and sympathetic judge for the past ten years in a court which comes closer than any other court in contact with the problems of the worker as tenant and wage-earner. They have known Panken as a fearless and tireless advocate of their rights for the past thirty years, always in the forefront of their conflicts, always their lawyer, tribune and defender. They have known him almost for a generation as their representative before employers at the conference table, as their attorney pleading their cause in the courts, opposing injunction moves, defending strikers and pickets.

The cloakmakers and dressmakers, and all other members of the International in the judicial district in which Judge Panken is now running for reelection, have it in their power to reelect him. There are thousands of our workers living there, and, if they all fulfill their duty toward their union, towards themselves, and toward the labor movement of which they are a part, the election of Justice Panken is assured. Our workers can send back Judge Panken to the "Poor Man's Court", and it is our fervent hope that they will not fail.

What is important, first of all—is to register this week, and to get every member of the family who is entitled to vote to register. Unfortunately, our workers are always tardy to register and usually postpone it to the last hour, which often results in someone else voting for them on election day. The second thing—every International member should become a Panken campaigner and booster during the next few weeks, in the shop, at meetings, and in the shop districts where union men meet.

There is a drive on, undertaken by the entire labor movement in New York City, to carry the East Side for Justice Panken by a tremendous majority. Our International Union and its locals, with which Panken has for years been associated as counsellor, organizer, propagandist and builder, is in the van of his popular campaign.

We can do it if we will. Let's do it!

THE INTERNATIONAL THANKS THE LABOR MOVEMENT

The two resolutions introduced by Delegate Nagler at the Los Angeles convention of the American Federation of Labor last week, thanking the Executive Council and all the international unions affiliated with the Federation for the aid, by word and act, given to our International Union during the dark and stormy months of the recent past, reflect, no doubt, the state of mind and sentiment of our entire loyal membership.

Our International—and all the workers whom it represents—owe thanks to the American labor movement for the splendid role it has played in saving our Union from the grasp of the Communist political clique. The prompt and timely cooperation of the leaders of the Federation during the great defensive struggle we had waged for the life of our organization, has, certainly, aided materially in "eliminating", in the words of one of the resolutions, "the treacherous and disloyal element from office and influence", and has also been "greatly instrumental in checking the spread of Communist disruptive propaganda throughout the American Labor movement".

This, however, is by far not the only gain which we have scored through this warm and comradely help which the American labor movement, as represented by the Federation and its affiliated bodies, has extended to us. It not only has aided us in conserving a trade union in the women's garment trades, but it has brought our workers and our organization much nearer to the American Labor movement as a whole. It has demonstrated to our members, as no act has ever demonstrated before, that the American labor unions and their leaders are keenly interested in our organization, are earnestly concerned with our work standards, welfare and future progress, and are ready to make sacrifices that we might remain organized in a strong, virile trade union.

This is a gain that our workers will cherish as long as their organization endures. They can best express their gratitude by remaining steadfast to the principles which underlie the American trade union movement, and loyal to its fine fighting traditions. The labor movement expects from us no more; it will be satisfied with nothing less.

The Growth of New Trade Unionism

By HERMAN FRANK, PH.D.

The Trade Union Congress of Great Britain, which was recently held at Edinburgh, is to be regarded as a milestone on the path of the labor movement at large.

Besides the general question of trade union organization, involving a controversy about the merits and defects of industrial unionism, a discussion on the subject of "Industrial Peace" attracted widespread attention. George Hicks, head of the federated trade unions, struck a new note in his presidential address. He invited the trade unions and the employers to enter into a closer relationship. Of course, the industrial peace of which he spoke did not imply an unconditional surrender of trade union rights nor an acquiescence in the iniquitous Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Act. He merely meant to voice the attitude of the responsible labor leaders towards the ever growing intricacies of an industrial civilization.

"Trade unionism," as Mr. Hicks said, "is at present passing through a vexatious, tollsome and difficult period." In England the root-trouble is in the conditions of the industry itself. The protracted unemployment, inflicting as it does unspeakable suffering on millions of persons, is a constant source of despair to the labor movement. Yet, above and beyond this trouble, there are other forces at work which make for temporary weakness in both England and America. The same cross-currents in the labor worlds of these countries mark off our time as a period of transition, from the point of view of organized labor.

Capital's New Strategy

Take the case of trade unionism in America. As a general rule the American Federation of Labor is based upon the principle of the craft union. Originally skilled craftsmen formed associations the main purpose of which was to maintain wages at a level which they regarded as fair and reasonable. For over a generation this plan could, not without strenuous efforts, hold its own.

But a recent system of industrial relations, maliciously dubbed "the American plan," which system has been installed from above, by the employers themselves, takes the large industrial concern as a unit. It seems to result in rings of a sort, these new rings consisting not of capitalists only, for the purpose of price-fixing, but of capitalists with their staffs and all the men on their pay-rolls. Although of brief standing, this plan wrought immeasurable damage to the freedom and self-determination of the American working class.

On the other hand, organized labor has accepted what may be termed the "machine age" as an irrepressible development of modern industry. It believes that management and labor are both dependent upon industry and that both can make use of capital for their joint advantage.

Unfortunately, the employer class do not view the new trend of the labor movement in the proper light. They expect the trade unions to come as penitents and demand from labor, as a condition of the new relations, the uprooting of the two supporting pillars of trade unionism; namely, the worker's loyalty to his organization and the spirit of solidarity which is the common bond that unites all crafts and industries into an organized whole.

Capital, more especially in the United States, seems readily to subscribe to the principle that organiza-

tion should begin with the plant itself; it should aim at organizing unity of interest; it should provide for joint action of managers and men in dealing with the common interest; it should emphasize the responsibility of managers to know the labor force at least as intimately as they know materials and machines, and a right and duty of the workers to have a knowledge of the industry, its processes and its policy.

The general view held by the benevolently-capitalistic employers is this: employees need to understand their relationship to the joint endeavor, so that they may once more take a creative interest in their work.

Labor's New Tasks

But how can craftsmanship, which is a prerequisite of any creative interest on the part of the worker, be severed from self-expression and self-government in the labor world?

The laborer, citizen of modern democracies as he is, has heard too much indeed of the dignity of labor. He craves for the dignity of leisure. Leisure is not idleness, for leisure implies a time of work and a time to survey the work and to gauge its worth. Rightly used it is the time when the mind sits in judgment upon its own activities, as has been finely remarked by a certain student of the humanized production methods advocated by Ruskin, William Morris, and Kropotkin.

It follows therefore that the first and foremost condition of success in the reorganization of the capital-labor relationship lies in the regularization of the working hours. In a country like ours, with so little affection for labor legislation, this problem can never be solved without strong and highly efficient trade unions.

Secondly, paternalism, which is the true name for the present-day benevolent capitalism, does not fit into the theory of dignified labor, no matter how glibly and temptingly the false prophets prate about the "American plan."

The laborer, in order to be fully efficient and well content, must not think in terms of his individual well-being only, for no man is living or dying to himself alone. Clearly, by their indefatigable attempts at ruling out the spirit of solidarity from the labor world, the stubborn enemies of trade unionism ever and ever again prove their own insincerity and selfishness.

Thirdly, there can be no creative interest on the part of labor until the individual laborer has both will and leisure to ask himself whether his efforts lead. He must ask himself what worthy and social ends his labors serve, and must feel satisfaction in his work, knowing it to be right work devoted to right ends.

How can such goals be attained by industrial workers living in conditions of involuntary servitude is a question to which a convincing reply must yet be given.

Trade Unionism in the Era of Transition

As has been shown, trade unionists want to become co-operative agents with the employers in making our industries more productive. In other words: trade unions must be the recognized agent on the workers' side. In Great Britain, one is sure, attempts to improve the management-personnel relationship in hostility to trade unionism, or on a basis of tame company unions, will be keenly resisted by the majority of the nation. This will destroy from the outset the possibilities of co-operation over a wider field.

Granted an enlightened public opinion in favor of genuine co-operation and, as its result, moderation on the part of the capitalist die-hards, what of the trade unions? In many of them there is already in existence machinery for collective bargaining and consultation between employers and employed. But this is hardly enough. Fresh organs to operate over wider fields, such as technical research and "social engineering", fields that will reward tillage, must be created. The American trade union movement, and the needle trades in particular, is already groping in this direction. But

there are few if any evidences of conscious organization and determined leadership at the head of marching troops.

Only on a basis of full mutual recognition, and with a clear realization that changed situations call for timely adjustments, can employers and workers settle down to discuss the pressing problems of a complex industrial society. It is to be regretted that in the stronghold of the world's trade unionism, in Great Britain, the labor movement is now passing through a serious period, perhaps the gravest within the memory of the living generation. Unhappily, the greatest industrial nation, the United States, on the other hand, has as yet little to offer towards a constructive reorganization of the capital-labor relationship.

The Trend of Real Wages

TO what extent have the wage workers shared in the prosperity of the United States? An attempt to estimate the relative welfare of the American wage earners at different times is necessarily based upon the relation between wages and the cost of living. The terms "wages" and "cost of living", however, are unfortunately very indefinite and they have to be defined in a way that indicates the degree to which they are representative of the general conditions characterized by index numbers.

Of course money wages fluctuate in value—in the amount of goods which they will buy. (The amount of money wages varies, too, according to different classes of workers, in different industries, and in proportion to the amount of time worked.) To obtain comprehensive and reliable data on the annual wages paid a particular individual or a class of workers is very difficult and frequently impossible, because workers move from one job to another or because records are not compiled. For these reasons data on wage rates per hour are the most available and generally the most reliable. But they tell nothing about the actual amounts earned per day, per week, and per year or about the opportunity to work.

Finally the most available and reliable wage rates are those fixed by wage scales made with trade unions, except in instances where employers who do not deal with trade unions, make reports to bureaus of research supported by trade associations. But union wage scales are generally higher than those paid to unorganized workers, so that a comparison between an index of union wage scales and an index of the cost of living represents in a somewhat too favorable light the trend of real wages.

An index for the cost of living is difficult to construct because of the variation in the standard of living between classes and between localities. Typical figures on the relative amounts spent for food, clothing, fuel, rent, house furnishings, and miscellaneous articles are difficult to obtain. The percentages which these different classes of expenditures are of the total budget have to be determined and used as weights in constructing the index. Retail prices, rather than wholesale prices, have to be obtained because wage workers do not buy at wholesale.

An attempt has been made by Professor Paul H. Douglas of the University of Chicago to make an estimate of the trend of real wages expressed in terms of years earnings.

Taking the averages between 1890 and 1899 as a base equalling 100, annual real wages are expressed as variations from that base from 1890 to 1924. The classes of wage earners considered were those in manufacturing, transportation, clerical and lower salaried workers, ministers, teachers, government employees, and postal em-

ployes. Without attempting to explain the many complicated factors which had to be considered in estimating money wages and the cost of living over that long period, the results may be summarized as follows:

1. For all groups the index of real earnings fluctuated from 1 to 4 per cent below or above 100 from 1890 to 1913. In 1913 it stood at 112 and ranged from 3 to 5 per cent below 112 until 1920. In 1920 it stood at 111 and rose to 128 by 1924, the last year for which data are available.

The rapid rise in 1921 and 1922, during a period of industrial depression, is largely accounted for by the decline in prices. However, it must be kept in mind that the figures apply to those who were fortunate enough to have employment and that they do not take into account the vast amount of unemployment during 1921 and 1922 and other years.

2. "In 1924, employed wage earners in manufacturing could have purchased on the average 28 per cent more of goods and services than during the nineties. Transportation workers could have purchased 22 per cent more. The average gain for all the workers studied was 27 per cent."

3. "Virtually all of these gains have been secured since 1914. In that year, aside from teachers, there was little or no increase in the relative purchasing power of the workers over that which they had enjoyed in the eighteen nineties."

4. "The major portion of the gains have been made since 1919 and continued unabated during the years 1920 to 1923, during two of which business conditions were bad with an attendant decrease in total production and an increase in unemployment. Thus the index of real earnings for all industries increased from 109 in 1919 to 127 in 1923 or a gain of 18 points. The gains from 1920 to 1923 accounted for 16 of these 18 points."

5. "Aside from the drop in 1917, real earnings in manufacturing have been rising steadily since 1915 at an average rate of approximately 3 per cent a year."

6. "Workers in transportation have on the whole secured somewhat smaller increases, in their relative purchasing power during the last decade than have those in manufacturing. On an 1890 to 1899 base, their index of real earnings in 1924 was 6 points and on a 1914 base, 10 points below that of the wage earners in manufacturing."

7. "Clerical workers, according to our index, have not only lost ground relatively but probably absolutely as well. Their index of real earnings, although much higher than it was during the years 1917 to 1920, is 5 per cent below its 1890 to 1899 average and 1 per cent below the average for 1914. It should be remembered, however, that the average earnings which

(Continued on Page 7)



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Do Sex Quarrels Help?

On Women's Contribution to the Labor Movement

By FANNIA M. COHN

"I'm so tired I can hardly get up for work this morning."

"What's the matter, Helen?" asked Mary.

"Do you know when our meeting broke up last night? After midnight."

"What happened? Why such a long session?"

"Do you remember at our last meeting we appointed a committee to appear before the General Executive Board to protest against their last ruling? The committee reported back to us last night. You should have been there and heard the uproar the report caused."

"Well, well," said Mary. "Another revolution against the general officers."

"Oh, yes," Helen answered. "They were called autocrats, heartless, senseless and unemotional creatures."

"That they don't consider the interests of the workers, I suppose," interrupted Mary. "And that their rulings are selfish, and so on."

"It may be humorous to you, Mary," Helen said with a little annoyance.

"But, believe me, there wasn't much humor at yesterday's meeting. The girls were in arms. They would not listen to any of our members of the local executive board who tried to explain the situation. They accused us of siding with the General Executive Board. You should have seen the poor chairman, who tried to keep order; she was in the midst of a volcano. I tell you, Mary, I feel like giving up the whole thing. I'm tired of the quarrels, disagreements and worst of all, the suspicions."

Said Mary: "I can imagine how the scene looked when our good sisters got excited, huh!"

"It's not a joke any longer, Mary," Helen said, indignantly. "I'm not the only one who feels the burden of the situation. The other girls on the Board want to resign also. The only one who is holding out bravely is our chairman. She takes it differently from the rest of us. To her it is not a personal matter, but one resulting from organization problems."

"Tell me, Helen," said Mary, "how did the men on your Executive Board take the whole thing? Did they decide to resign from the Board at once? Are they frightened by the storm into leaving the helm?"

"Oh, you know, they are different, Mary," Helen said. "They took everything calmly. In the first place, they asserted themselves. They got up on the platform and raised their voices above the tumult of the audience. They made an attempt at least to explain the situation to our members. Even though no one seemed to pay any attention to them, the men did not lose their tempers. The whole scene hardly affected them. They held a caucus in a corner and announced that any one who disturbed the meeting would be called to account by the General Executive Board. I certainly envy the ease with which men take things."

"Hold on, Helen," said Mary. "Don't fool yourself that men take things easily, or that they are calm. I have worked with men. I understand them a little better than you do, and I know that they don't take things quite as easily as all that. Certainly they are not cold-blooded. The difference between men and women in responsible positions in the labor movement or in other organizations, however, is that men have gained a great deal of experience and poise in their many years of activity and know how to appear calm."

"What do you mean, Mary?" Helen asked with interest.

"What I mean is," Mary explained, "that as a result of men functioning in the labor movement and in other organizations, they are more disciplined and submit to rules and regulations with better grace. They discuss matters more calmly and with more deliberation. I saw that when your committee of girls appeared before the General Executive Board of which, you know, I am a member."

"Just before your committee came, another committee made up of men appeared before us. The chairman invited them to state their case. A young man introduced the spokesman, who presented their protest against a decision of ours which they considered unjust. The chairman explained that the General Executive Board was within its constitutional rights in giving the decision and that it also considered it a duty to do so for the advantage of the organization. The spokesman, assisted by the others of the committee, asked the Board to reconsider its decision."

"The chairman answered that as the Board is not arbitrary, but is guided by its written constitution, no change could be made in the decision. If," he said, "your Local is not satisfied with the ruling, you can appeal to the highest body, the Convention, which alone has power to change the constitution, and until then you must abide to our decision."

"Very well," said the committee spokesman. "If we cannot get any recourse here, we will take your advice, Brother President. We will bring the matter to the Convention and even defeat the Board on that issue."

"After this committee left, your committee of girls appeared. The chairman was even more polite and gentle with them. He asked for the spokesman, but several of your girls began to speak at once. One of the girls finally did get the attention of the chairman and she presented the case. No sooner had she finished than all the others began to make corrections and additions to her story. The chairman politely proceeded to give them the same answer he had given previously to the committee of men. The girls continually interrupted him with sarcastic remarks. One said, 'What do you mean by insisting that your ruling is based on the Constitution? Must we obey the Constitution even when it does us harm?'"

The chairman, in spite of his desire to be polite, became impatient and told the committee very brusquely that they had only on recourse, the Convention. "Until then," he said, "if your Local wants to remain within our national organization, it will have to abide by the ruling of the General Executive Board, which is vested with the authority to lead the organization between Conventions."

"Before he had finished speaking, your friend Beatrice spoke up: 'I suppose if the Board made a ruling that we were to throw ourselves out of a window, we would have to obey it.'"

"The committee left the room contemptuously, banging the door behind it, and making loud insinuations against the integrity of the members of the General Executive Board. Afterwards, when I tried to explain the workings of the Board to the girls, they were indignant that I, a woman, should defend some irresponsible men. When I tried to make the girls see that the men they accused of insincerity, merely because of their attitude, might really be honest in their convictions despite their calm manner, your committee was even more angry with me."

"They all said at once, 'Do you mean to say that if they were sincere, they would sit by and calmly smoke their cigarettes in answer to our earnest plea? What answer could I make to them? I know you girls are sincere, well meaning, idealistic; but I also know that your attitude arises from your lack of experience in working with men.'"

"You have really made me think," Helen said. "What do you suggest as a solution for our problems, Mary?"

"Our problems," said Mary, "are human problems. They exist in every organization where women have entered and have had to work side by side with men. The difficulties arising between men and women in their work is due, most frequently, to lack of understanding of each other's point of view and approach, and only occasionally to actual differences in their aims. In my long experience in the labor movement and outside of it, I have observed that the difficulties can be, and are overcome, as soon as women become less personal, lose part of their sensitiveness and introspection. Just as soon as women can reasonably dissociate their personal feelings from the job they must do, just as soon as they can deliberate coolly and decide a case on its merits and not on the prejudices aroused by their excessive emotions, so soon will they find that they have very much in common with men."

"Coming back to the appearances of your committee the other night, is our Brother President would have undervalued the psychology of women better, he would have presented the workings of the General Executive Board in a different manner to the girls' committee than he did to the men."

"He would have used different arguments in support of the decision of his Board. He would have realized that the abstract interpretations of the Constitution do not yet make a strong appeal to women."

"This can be easily explained because women do not possess the tradition which comes from long association with activities connected with social or economic institutions. This lack, however, with which women find themselves today, has much in it of creative possibilities, because lack of tradition makes women more flexible to grasp new problems or situations as they come up."

"Women will find that they have the same instinctive urge for power and authority if only that power is used honestly and sincerely for the cause of labor and humanity. They will understand men better and men will understand them better, and both will be better able to work together for their common aims."

"Do you really mean," asked Helen, "that you look forward to a time when women will be as impersonal, deliberate and unemotional as men, thinking only of reaching out for the power that goes with authority and using it in a cold-blooded manner to satisfy a personal ego?"

"Now, look here, Helen," said Mary. "With all the admiration I have for your sincerity I warn you not to exaggerate things in favor of women or men. Let us be honest about this problem which confronts us in the labor movement and in all other organizations where men and women must function together. Hiding a problem does not solve it. The position of woman will not be advanced in the labor movement or in society in general by creating an artificial atmosphere and describing either men or women in exaggerated ways."

"Every woman who wants to marry, hopes to get not only a husband but a friend also. Both men and women are willing to place their spiritual and mental possessions in each other's hands and trust them to each other's keeping. When children come, both father and mother want each other's influence on the children; they value that influence very highly. The happiness of husband and wife depend very largely on the happiness of each other. For the life of me I cannot see why they cannot appreciate each other's contribution to an organization. Why suspicion and distrust? Isn't it sheer prejudice? The woman as a newcomer to our social life must overcome the myth of the difference between men and women, and work together in organization as they do in the home."

"But," asked Helen, "what will become of woman's inherent qualities and woman's point of view, so much talked of in these days? Should we lose them all in working together with men?"

"Not at all," said Mary. "There is not a reason why this should not be their contribution. The woman's qualities you speak of are persistence, endurance, devotion and all of the other traits women have developed as the mothers of the race. Women can very well bring these qualities to the labor movement and even impress them on the men with whom they work. They can add, too, their enthusiasm, freshness and vigor, which as a new group they possess, and the labor movement can be enriched by them. I have no doubt, indeed, that women can exert a great influence on men in the movement and on the movement itself, from the infusion of their qualities into the work."

OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Within the next week, our Educational Department will announce the program of activities for the season 1927-1928.

The program, as usual, will be designed to meet the needs of our members and their families and to suit present conditions in our union. We hope this season to be successful in carrying through the activities we started several years ago, and were compelled, for one reason or another, to postpone.

An institution, to be effective, whether educational or otherwise, must adopt itself to new conditions. Change is the law of life. Especially is this true with workers' educational activities, as it is now realized that education is not confined to one form, but must be expressed in many ways.

Since it was our good fortune to pioneer in this field we intend to carry on our experimentation this season.

An Appropriate Appointment

By NORMAN THOMAS

SO Dwight Morrow is to be our Ambassador to Mexico. We are glad of it. Wait a minute before you start throwing bricks. Let us explain. We are not glad that we live in the kind of country where a partner in the House of Morgan is the suitable and appropriate public representative of a foreign policy which for many years has been framed largely in the interests of the class or group of which the House of Morgan is the most powerful representative. But since we do live in such a country we are glad that that fact is brought out into the light of day where everybody can see it. The most dangerous thing about American imperialism is that it has been masked so that the reader of newspaper headlines did not realize what was going on. Even the reader of newspaper headlines will take in the significance of the appointment of Mr. Morrow and will not be inclined to believe that it is sufficiently explained merely by the fact that he and Calvin Coolidge were college chums.

Moreover if we are going to be run by big business we should rather see the boss himself in an important post like that at Mexico City instead of his second rate office boy whom we have been sending to Mexico City and elsewhere. At least Mr. Morrow has ability. He has, moreover, a certain sense of propriety which has made him resign from the House of Morgan. Furthermore we suspect that intelligent Mexicans would on the whole prefer a representative of the bankers than of the oil investors at this moment. After all, the bankers are mostly anxious for the payment of interest on existing debts and they are fairly well satisfied with what Mexico has done. As much cannot be said for the oil men. For all of which reasons unless some one has got facts to present that we do not know we shall not join in the outcry against Mr. Morrow's ratification. And if our progressive friends spend much time fighting it they will, as so often happens, be wasting their energy barking up the wrong tree.

Tariff Troubles

For some reason or other Mr. Coolidge has recently discovered that the manifesto of the financiers about the need of lower trade barriers cannot possibly apply to the sacred American tariff. Maybe not now. But before long there is likely to be a very interesting division in the Republican party between manufacturing interests which want to keep up the maximum tariff rates and investors in European securities who want to get dividends by stimulating European trade, which means lower tariffs. There won't be any idealism in either group. What the farmers and workers of America have to consider is the long run effect of high tariffs not only upon their own interests as consumers but upon the peace and prosperity of the world. The American quarrel against high French tariff rates may contain a wholesome lesson on the subject of our own rates.

The Outlawry of War

The sad failure of recent flights across the oceans means that America's isolation from attack by air will not be ended quite so fast as seemed likely earlier in the summer. We have a breathing space in which to plan our affairs so that this new triumph of man's courage and genius shall be a blessing and not a curse, an instrument of peace and not of war.

In this connection it is interesting to note the new interest of the League of Nations in peace. Dr. Nansen has introduced a comprehensive scheme

to end war, one feature of which is compulsory arbitration for disputes not otherwise settled. Dr. Loudon, a Dutch delegate, before the League of Nations has specifically lauded the "outlawry of war." We are glad that the idea is gaining ground in Europe, for we are convinced that Mr. Levinson's plan to outlaw war is the most practicable and important immediate step that might be taken to preserve international peace. The League of Nations itself would take on a different complexion if it existed on the basis of the outlawry of war as an institution, the codification of international law, and the erection of a genuine court of peace to interpret it. Disarmament will become practicable when war is outlawed. The best exposition of this entire matter that we have ever seen is found in a recent book by C. C. Morrison, entitled "Outlawry of War." We should like to see all progressive unions, farmers' organizations and parties endorse and actively support the particular plan for which he argues so convincingly.

But the progressive forces cannot afford to rest their hope of peace on any panacea, not even the outlawry of war. Mr. Morrison claims too much for his plan. His remarks on the causes of war are quite inadequate and his trust in law as a substitute for war is not supported by the facts of life or of history, certainly not by the fantastic and misleading extreme to which he pushes the analogy between war and dueling. The outlawry of war on the Levinson or any other plan is only one step toward peace. The preservation of peace means the end of imperialism. And that, in turn, means the end of both capitalism and nationalism as we now know them. To establish an international social control over economic resources and processes now left to individual greed without a very deadly war will require more than one step. A peace program must have many elements, but no specific cures will be worth much which blind us to the need of a steady and systematic campaign against imperialism. And we can't successfully fight imperialism unless we learn to practice internationalism.

It isn't likely that we shall get very far in stopping the exploitation of foreign people by our financiers unless we can stop the exploitation of our own workers. We saw the other day a letter from a certain firm in Troy, N. Y., inviting the neckwear manufacturers of New York to come to a city of low rents, cheap and abundant unorganized labor and plenty of police protection. Certain neckwear makers are moving to New Haven, Glens Falls and elsewhere to escape the union and to reestablish low wages and home work, which means sweat-shop work. One of these manufacturers, we are told, is a great giver of Jewish charities. It is an old discovery of the rich that charity is cheaper than justice and infinitely more satisfactory for the warm glow of self-admiration it brings.

Senator Nye's program for a union of various blocs in Congress on a progressive program is admirable. Public development of power at Boulder Dam and Muscle Shoals, adequate help for flood sufferers and complete protection for the Mississippi Valley, farm relief, and no reduction in taxes make a splendid combination of issues. We still have our doubts of the McNary-Haugen bill, but agree that if the rest of the country sticks to high protection something of the sort must go to the farmers. We hope Senator Nye and his progressive colleagues will add a strong program against imperialism.

What Will The Farmers Do

Since this is the harvest season, it may be well to review the present status of the prominent plans for farmer's relief. Though the farmers have lost their supremacy in the national life, they still make up so large a part of the gainfully employed that their welfare is an extremely important factor, influencing social and political events, and of special concern to labor, because the purchases of the farmers provide so large a part of the market for the goods on which wage-earners are employed.

Having taken a firm position against the McNary-Haugen bill, which strong groups of farmers' representatives put through the last Congress, the administration was forced to find a substitute which it could support in the next session. This has been found in the Jardine plan. The Jardine plan proposes the creation of a number of farmer-owned national corporations which would be authorized to buy, hold and sell staple crops whenever a surplus beyond the immediate demands of the domestic market forces prices down to unprofitable levels for the grower. In order to build warehouses and finance cooperative corporations, the government would appropriate \$500,000,000 as a revolving fund. The case of cotton may be taken as an illustration. Last year there was a large cotton surplus, which forced prices down. The corporation would have bought large quantities of cotton and stored it, thus keeping prices from falling so low. This year there is a short crop. The corporation would therefore sell the stored cotton this year and so replenish the revolving fund.

This plan is all very well for taking care of occasional surpluses, and stabilizing the industry against the vagaries of nature, such as caused the cotton shortage this year. But there is no guarantee under it that there would not be a tendency for constant surpluses in any given crop, like wheat. Keeping the price up to a profitable level would probably encourage farmers to grow more. Then the "revolving fund" would soon become exhausted, and either the whole plan would have to be abandoned, or the government would be called upon to appropriate enormous further sums to help the farmers. Opposition to the latter course would be certain to arise on the ground that it was providing a tremendous subsidy at the expense of the taxpayers.

The principal respect in which this plan differs from the McNary-Haugen bill is that in the latter, any loss incurred by the marketing corporations would be charged up to the producers themselves through an "equalization fee" to be collected through government agencies. The McNary-Haugen bill was also criticized because it contained no safeguards against increased production; but if production did increase under it beyond economic limits,

the chief sufferers would be the farmers themselves. It may be said reasonably that the equalization fee would be difficult to collect. But it is utterly illogical to oppose the bill, as the administration did, both on the ground that it would not work, and on the ground that it would subsidize the farmers. If it did not work, the farmers would stand the loss. The Jardine proposal incurs much more risk of having to subsidize the farmers than the McNary-Haugen bill.

There is every sign that there will be a bitter fight between the advocates of these two measures in the next session of Congress. It is possible that some third proposal will be adopted as a compromise. There are at least two of these which have been suggested by competent authorities. One is called the "debenture" plan, which aims to collect and distribute to farmers a subsidy equivalent to the tariff subsidy enjoyed by many manufacturers, through the machinery of the customs. Another is a complex plan, too intricate to be explained in a short space, which, if it could be successfully administered, would result in charging the American consumer with the amount of the agricultural tariff, only on the amount of crops consumed in this country, allowing the exports to move into the world market at the world price.

THE TREND OF REAL WAGES

(Continued from page 5)

were given for the years 1890 to 1899 were somewhat in excess of the real earnings during this period. The decrease since this decade has probably therefore been somewhat less than is shown above. This does not affect the movement since 1899 and it has been in this last quarter of a century that the decreases shown above have occurred. The ministerial class has also lost during this period and its present relative index is 8 per cent below that of the nineties.

8. "Contrary to the general impression, school-teachers have apparently made great relative progress during the thirty-five years and now receive nearly 140 per cent more than in 1890 and slightly more than double the amount which their earnings commanded during the nineties as a whole.

"In comparison with their 1914 average, the teachers did suffer net losses during the five years from 1916 to 1920 but during the last five years they have made such great gains that the present index is 44 per cent above the 1914 level."

In summarizing the causes which may explain the increase in real wages Professor Douglass points to the great increase in production, the decrease in food prices, and the limitations put upon immigration.



LEARN DESIGNING

Earn 50 to 200 Dollars a Week

Take A Course of Instruction in
THE MITCHELL DESIGNING
SCHOOL OF MEN'S, WOMEN'S, MISSES
and CHILDREN'S WEARING
APPAREL and LADIES' FUR GARMENTS.

The Mitchell School of Designing, pattern making, grading, draping and fitting of cloaks, suits, dresses, fur garments and men's garments have achieved—

— **New Ideas—New Systems—Best Results**

A course of instruction in the Mitchell Designing School means an Immediate Position—Bigger Pay.

DEMONSTRATION FREE AT OUR SCHOOL

—A GOOD PROFESSION FOR MEN AND WOMEN—
EASY TO LEARN — REASONABLE TERMS
Individual Instruction — Day and Evening Sessions
Evening Sessions: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Call for Free Booklet and Full Information

MITCHELL DESIGNING SCHOOL

ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS

15 West 37th Street Telephone: Wisconsin 5978 New York City

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

With the slogan "The Small Shop Must Go!" adopted after a thorough analysis of the industrial problems in the cloak and dress trades, by the last quarterly session of the General Executive Board, held recently in Boston, the Union has now actively begun to enlist the officers, the active members, and the entire membership in the agitation against the small shops.

Discussion of Problem Started

The discussion of the problem was started by President Morris Sigman last Monday afternoon, October 10, in the headquarters of the International, in which all local managers, secretaries and business agents of the organizations affiliated with the Joint Board took part. There were also present at this discussion officers of the locals in the outlying districts, as well as the New York vice-presidents of the International. They met to analyze the situation and to suggest possible remedies. It is too early to state definitely what means may be adopted to attack this evil.

First of all, it is the intent of the president of the International to stimulate interest in the problem among the entire membership through discussions. After a thorough airing of the problem, in the course of which some tangible solution may be offered, necessary steps will be taken to put such a method into effect. The meeting which discussed this question was unusually well attended and resulted in a spirited discussion of the problem.

At a recent meeting of the Joint Board, President Sigman spoke at length on this problem so badly neglected by the Communists, who chose to convert the Union into an adjunct of the Communist Party rather than to serve the needs of the membership. To the question as to what could be done to rid the industry of the small shop pest, he stated that there was only one answer:

"The small shop must go! Nothing must be left undone, no sacrifice is too great to get rid of this industrial pestilence in order to bring sanity and order into the industry. Let every member of the Union, every officer, paid and unpaid, take part in the discussion of this vital problem and help find the best means for solving it. The Joint Board should take a hand in this matter, and it must become the leading question before the membership of our Union at this hour."

At the next membership meeting, on October 21, this question will be covered by Manager Dubinsky in addition to his report of the activities of the office since the last meeting. This is a problem that confronts every worker, cutter, operator, finisher, etc. However, members of Local 10 should not only express their opinions at meetings, but are invited to express their opinions on this page.

Campaign Strengthens Union Control
Except for the fact that the Joint Board's drive against the non-union shops had been hampered by the inactivity of the cloak and dress market during August and September, a great many more shops would have been added to the list of union controlled firms. However, according to a report rendered by General Manager Julius Hochman, what has already been accomplished lends additional proof to the increasingly healthy state of the Union. Not only were over 200 cloak and dress shops organized but about 100 of the smaller shops were compelled to close their doors because of the Union's refusal to deal with them. The Union refused to deal with these shops because they were

of the type which tended to demoralize the industry, and a contract with such shops would not lend prestige to the Union.

Speaking of the shops controlled by the former commissars of the defunct Communist Joint Board, Hochman stated that their number at the present time is insignificant. It may be reasonably expected that within a short time, trade activities permitting, they will all be brought under union control, as the majority of the workers employed in them have more than once approached the officers of the Joint Board asking to be taken back into the Union. These workers say that ever since the so-called "lefts" had taken control of their shops every vestige of union conditions was eradicated in them. Employers take every conceivable advantage and force the workers to work under the worst sort of conditions.

Important Meeting October 31

Due to the Jewish holidays falling in October, the membership meeting scheduled to take place on October 10 had to be postponed. The Executive Board was compelled to shift the date of the meeting to October 31. This meeting will be a special one for a number of reasons. In addition to a recommendation that the Executive Board will make with regard to Judge Jacob Panken's campaign for re-election, there are a number of very important matters to be taken up which were referred to the membership of the locals by the General Executive Board's last quarterly session.

These matters will in all probability, come to the members in the form of recommendations by the Executive Board, since most of the questions referred to the locals by the General Executive Board are first taken up by the Executive Board. In addition to this, the Executive Board has a few interesting things to report to the members. Of great interest will be the case of some of the shops which have taken it upon themselves to interpret the decision of the membership regarding Saturday work to suit themselves.

For instance, there is the case of the cutters of the Kamy Cloak Company. These men received permission to work one Saturday. Thinking that the barriers concerning working on Saturdays had been lifted, they decided to work on the following Saturday without securing the consent of the office. However, as in almost all cases of this sort, the officers are generally aware of what goes on in a shop, and, therefore, Manager Dubinsky assigned a committee to visit the Kamy Cloak Company on Saturday, September 17. The result was that with the exception of one man, the full staff of cutters, nine in number, were found working in the shop at 4:30 o'clock.

The interesting aspect of this case is that among the eleven men em-

ployed there are two men of extreme opposites working for this firm. One man would, under no circumstances, work on a Saturday. He has adopted a slogan for himself and that is that a man who would work on Saturday is a "skunk". The other man is not quite so careful. In fact, he worked more than once on Saturday. A few weeks prior to the day on which they were apprehended, this man, I. Handelman, was found by a committee near the shop. He was summoned to the office on charges of going to work. At the Executive Board meeting he offered the lame excuse that he was to meet his wife who was coming into town from a trip. The office knew that on the Saturday when he was found near his shop the rest of the men, with one exception, were working, but to insure apprehending the full staff, Handelman was allowed to go with a dismissal of his case. He came back to his shop boasting that he "put it over on the Executive Board". But his glee was short-lived. A short time afterward he was apprehended with the rest of the cutters, with the result that fines ranging from \$30 to \$40 were imposed upon the nine men.

Volunteer for Panken Campaign

The office is in receipt of a letter from August Claessens, Executive Secretary of the Socialist Party, in which Local 10 is requested to help it in its political campaign of the coming November. Among the candidates running on the Socialist Party ticket is Judge Jacob Panken, who has been nominated for re-election in the 2nd Municipal District.

Who Panken is and where he stands in the estimation of the Labor movement is familiar to the cutters. It was mentioned last week in these columns that, when he was a candidate for governor in 1925, he received the endorsement of the cutters of Local 10. A call was issued last week for cutters to volunteer in various capacities to aid in the re-election of Panken. What is most needed is canvassers. Members of Local 10, especially those who reside on the East Side should report to the party headquarters, 7 East 15th Street, for campaign work. This appeal is in accord with a decision of the Executive Board.

International Greet A. F. of L. Convention

By the time the members of Local 10 will have received this copy of "Justice" the sessions of the A. F. of L. held in Los Angeles, California, will be over. Isidore Nagler, Manager of the Industrial Council Department of the Joint Board, a delegate to the convention, presented a number of resolutions, among which were two dealing with the aid rendered the

International by the A. F. of L. in the fight against the domination of the Union by Communists.

"WHEREAS," one resolution reads in part, "this onslaught (by the Communists) upon the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has resulted in the virtual destruction by the Communist union-wrecking element of several big divisions of said organization of which they gained control for a time, and in destitute conditions for 40,000 cloak makers in New York City whom they plunged into a futile and losing strike for over twenty weeks, and . . .

"RESOLVED, that this 47th Convention of the American Federation of Labor in convention assembled in Los Angeles, California, act favorably upon the request of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to convey officially, on the floor of the convention by means of this resolution, the undying gratitude of the tens of thousands of its members, loyal trade unionists and adherents of the principles and traditions for which the American Labor Movement as represented by the American Federation of Labor stands for, for the unselfish, sincere and highly effective assistance and cooperation given them by President Green and the entire Executive Council in the fight to save their union from the attack of the union-disruptive osow agents."

The second resolution conveys the gratitude and thanks of the International to those of the organizations in the A. F. of L. which have assisted financially in the fight against Communism. Among those especially mentioned are the United Mine Workers of America, the International Association of Machinists and the Federation of Hosiery Workers.

Due to the duty with which Nagler was charged, and the distance separating him from New York City, it was not possible for him to send a detailed report of the convention, and his impression. Thus far, he was only able to send his greetings to the membership, Executive Board and officers. There is little doubt but that he will, at one of the membership meetings, render a detailed report. This will not be before the second meeting in November, that is, about November 14.

Among other things that the A. F. of L. acted upon, is the expression of its accord with the five-day week and that it will in the future strive toward this attainment. This prompted President Sigman to say that the International was the first, about five years ago, to introduce the five day week and that he has little doubt but that the American workers will insist more and more strongly on the institution of the five day week.

"SACCO AND VANZETTI: WHAT SHALL WE DO?"

That Sacco and Vanzetti are not yet dead, despite what the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has done to them, is evident in the fact that a very important symposium will be held under the auspices of the Cercle Victor Hugo Tuesday evening, October 5 at 6:30 sharp at the Fifth Avenue Restaurant, 200 Fifth Avenue, on the question:

"Sacco and Vanzetti: What Shall We Do?" in which some of the most prominent radicals, libertarians and educators will participate.

Questions as to whether Sacco and Vanzetti, though dead, should be vindicated in the eyes of the world by exposing the frame-up against them, whether the real perpetrators of the South Braintree murder should be unearthed and whether the activities of the Department of Justice in the case should be revealed will be raised from the floor and by the following speakers:

Norman Thomas, Director of the League for Industrial Democracy; Robert Morris Lovett, Professor, University of Chicago; Paxton Hibben, Forrest Bailey, Director, American Civil Liberties Union; Arthur Warner of the Nation, and Harry Kelly, founder of the Mohegan Modern Colony.

Reservations are \$2 per plate and should be made through Le Cercle Victor Hugo, 70-Fifth Avenue, Room 411, New York City. Tel. Chelsea 0432.

Attention, Members of Local 10!

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, October 31, 1927

ARLINGTON HALL,

23 St. Mark's Place. 7:30 P. M.

PURPOSE: Special Recommendation of the Executive Board.